

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1915

Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian and Achadjian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Ian Calderon, Fox,
Hall, Holden, Nestande, Patterson, and Wilk)
(Coauthors: Senators ~~Vidak~~ Berryhill, Lara, Vidak, and Yee)

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 51220 and 51226.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, as amended, Nazarian. Pupil instruction: social sciences: Armenian Genocide.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences. Existing law requires the instruction in social studies to provide instruction in, among other things, human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

This bill *would enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act and* would require the instruction in human rights issues to also include particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of the Armenian Genocide, *as defined*. To the extent this bill would increase the level of service required to be provided by school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to incorporate materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of

curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science and other requirements.

This bill would also require the incorporation of materials related to the Armenian Genocide into those publications, and would make other related changes and nonsubstantive changes.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** *This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the*
2 *Armenian Genocide Education Act.*

3 **SECTION 1.**

4 **SEC. 2.** Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to
5 read:

6 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
7 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

8 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
9 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
10 listening, and speaking.

11 (b) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
12 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
13 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
14 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
15 the history, resources, development, and government of California
16 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
17 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
18 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
19 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
20 development of the American economic system, including the role
21 of the entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their
22 human and natural environment; eastern and western cultures and
23 civilizations; human rights issues, with particular attention to the

1 study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, the Armenian
2 Genocide, and the Holocaust, and contemporary issues.

3 (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than
4 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
5 reading, and writing the particular language.

6 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
7 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
8 required by Section 51222.

9 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
10 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
11 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,
12 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and
13 interdependence of the sciences.

14 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
15 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
16 problem-solving procedures.

17 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
18 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
19 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

20 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
21 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business
22 education, or general agriculture.

23 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
24 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the
25 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
26 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
27 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

28 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
29 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws
30 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper
31 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation
32 of the causes, seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents,
33 and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe
34 operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver
35 education shall include education in the safe operation of
36 motorcycles.

37 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

38 ~~SEC. 2.~~

39 *SEC. 3.* Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to
40 read:

1 51226.3. (a) The department shall incorporate into publications
2 that provide examples of curriculum resources for teacher use
3 those materials developed by publishers of nonfiction, trade books,
4 and primary sources, or other public or private organizations, that
5 are age-appropriate and consistent with the subject frameworks
6 on history and social science that deal with civil rights, human
7 rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and
8 the Holocaust.

9 (b) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,
10 rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human
11 rights, genocide, the Armenian Genocide, and the Holocaust.

12 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
13 development activities to provide teachers with content background
14 and resources to assist in teaching about civil rights, human rights
15 violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and the
16 Holocaust.

17 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
18 development activities to provide teachers with content background
19 and resources to assist in teaching about the Great Irish Famine of
20 1845–50.

21 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in
22 the next cycle in which the history-social science curriculum
23 framework and its accompanying instructional materials are
24 adopted.

25 (f) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide
26 adopted by the state board, pursuant to Section 51226, shall be
27 made available to schools in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as soon as
28 funding is available for this purpose. In addition, the department
29 shall make the curriculum available on its Internet Web site.

30 (g) *For purposes of this article, “Armenian Genocide” means*
31 *the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which*
32 *included death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the*
33 *Ottoman Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000*
34 *innocent people during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.*

35 ~~SEC. 3.~~

36 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
37 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
38 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

- 1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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